



The Tallahassee
Coalition for the Homeless

Attachment # 1A
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July 27, 2004

Mr. Parwez Alam
Office of Leon County Commissioners
301 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301


Dear Mr. Alam,

Enclosed is a proposal to the Leon County Board of County Commissioners to fund \$260,000 for the women's dorm at HOPE Community. HOPE stands for Housing Opportunities and Personal Empowerment, and will be the first comprehensive homeless service center in our area. HOPE will offer transitional housing and supportive services for 164 homeless men, women and children in a setting that encourages responsibility and offers the opportunity for independence and self-sufficiency. Success will be measured by the number of residents who achieve long-term housing stability and increased income levels through job stability or access to mainstream resources such as Social Security or VA pensions.

To date, the Tallahassee Coalition for the Homeless, Inc. has raised over \$3.2 million which will enable us to do the site work and build the Family Dorm, Men's Dorm and Cafeteria. It is estimated to cost \$330,000 to build the women's dorm, which will house 32 homeless single women for up to six months.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please contact us if you need additional information.

Sincerely,


Kay Freeman
Executive Director

Overview

The Mission of the Tallahassee Coalition for the Homeless is to be the leader of a compassionate, community partnership dedicated to coordinating resources that empower the homeless. To that end, we are developing the first comprehensive homeless service center in our area. It will be called HOPE Community, for Housing Opportunities and Personal Empowerment. We are requesting funds from the Leon County Board of County Commissioners to build the women's dorm for 32 women we will serve.

History

The Tallahassee Coalition for the Homeless, Inc. (TCH) has been in existence since 1985, and is a registered 501©3 organization. Our primary goals were to coordinate services for people experiencing homelessness, educate the public and advocate for increased rights for homeless people and funding for service providers. In the 1990's, HUD began dispersing funds for supportive housing programs through local coalitions, at which time we expanded to be able to disperse federal funds to local providers. The State of Florida has since followed that model and TCH administers six grants to local social service providers annually, totaling over \$1.3 million.

Part of our mission is to identify gaps in service provision for people experiencing homelessness, and advocate for additional services to fill those gaps. We identified the need for a "one-stop shop" for clients to be able to access a seamless array of services to address the needs of people who are homeless. No other service providers were able to take on such a monumental task, and so TCH began the planning for HOPE Community.

Project Goals:

HOPE Community will serve persons experiencing homelessness with a high-quality, comprehensive seamless array of services and housing. HOPE will provide housing and supportive service for homeless men, women, and children in a setting that encourages responsibility and offers the opportunity for independence and self-sufficiency in a challenging and dignified manner.

Our clients will receive optimum levels of services and housing to help them achieve self-sufficiency. HOPE Community will serve as a single location that will provide a multitude of services needed to help individuals and families move from homelessness to independent living. These services will include:

- Separate dorms for families, women and men
- Counseling and case management
- Job training and employment listings

- Access to mainstream resources and other social service benefits
- Parenting and child resource center
- Developmentally appropriate play and learning areas for children
- Kitchen and dining area, which will also serve as a job training site
- Medical triage and clinic
- Secure, campus-like environment

The dorms will be have 64 beds for families, 32 beds for single women, and 72 beds for single men. By creating an environment that will pool and coordinate resources, we will be able to help families and individuals end their cycles of homelessness, not just treat the symptoms. Long-term success will be measured by the number of residents who achieve housing stability and increased income levels through job stability or access to mainstream resources such as Social Security or VA pensions.

Tallahassee and Leon County will also gain considerably by supporting HOPE Community. By moving people through HOPE Community and making them tax payers instead of tax consumers, our community can have an estimated economic gain *per year of operation* of \$ 24,662,840 (Freeman and Crook, 2004, *Economic Impact of Homelessness on Tallahassee, Florida*). This estimate of economic gain includes revenues from new tax payers and the influx of purchasing dollars into our local economy. Additionally, the public costs of providing emergency services for each client will be eliminated.

To date, we have raised over \$3.2 million and have begun the site work. Expected completion of the Family Dorm, Men's Dorm, and cafeteria is Fall 2004. Our goal is to also be able to build and open the Women's Dorm at this time. Once additional funds are raised, we will have a child care/education center, medical clinic, counseling building, and security building on-site.

Amount requested:

We are requesting \$260,000 to assist in the construction of the Women's Dorm. It is estimated that the building will cost \$330,000, and other public and private monies are being sought for the remainder of the construction costs.